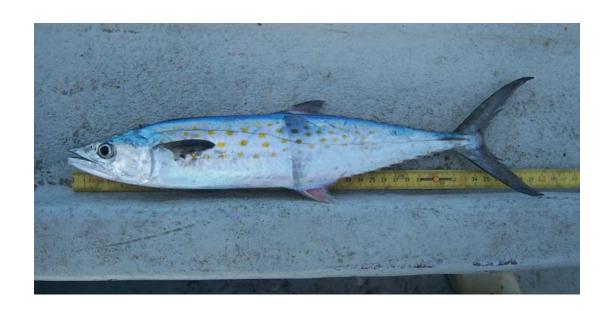


CATCH AND BYCATCH IN U.S. SOUTHEAST GILLNET FISHERIES, 2011. BY SIMON J.B. GULAK MICHELLE S. PASSEROTTI JOHN K. CARLSON



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Introduction

Since its inception in 1993, the Southeast Gillnet Observer Program has followed the evolvement and changes of the Florida-Georgia shark gillnet fishery (e.g. Carlson and Bethea 2007 and references therein, Passerotti et al. 2011). Currently, there are nearly 500 total directed and incidental shark permits issued in the US Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, while the number of fishers using gillnet gear varies annually. Implementation of the most recent amendments to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (NMFS 2007, 2010) have reduced gillnet effort targeting large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS), respectively, and resulted in fishers increasingly targeting finfish species such as Spanish mackerel *Scomberomorous maculatus*, king mackerel *Scomberomorous cavalla*, and bluefish *Pomatomus saltatrix*, with varying types of gillnet gear as an alternative. Consequently, the southeast gillnet observer program currently covers all anchored (sink and stab), strike, or drift gillnet fishing regardless of target by vessels that fish from Florida to North Carolina and the Gulf of Mexico year-round.

Herein, we summarize fishing effort and catch and bycatch in these fisheries during January 2011 - December 2011, collectively referred to as '2011'.

Methods

Observer protocol

Vessels were selected on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, and September) randomly from a pool of vessels that had reported fishing with gillnet gear during the same quarter in the previous year in the NMFS Coastal Fisheries Logbook. Selection letters notifying

permit holders of required observer coverage were issued via U.S. Certified mail approximately one month prior to the upcoming selection period. Receipt of selection letters was confirmed via signature upon acceptance by the permit holder or their proxy. Once the permit holder received the selection letter, he or she was required to make contact with the observer coordinator and indicate intent to fish during the upcoming selection period. Contact was usually made by phone, and the observer coordinator gathered information concerning the vessel's name, captain, contact persons and phone numbers, communications and safety equipment available aboard the vessel, and information about the vessel's location, dates, and times of departure and return. Additional information collected included whether the vessel was active in another fishery, under repair, or no longer fishing. Upon notification of the intention to fish, the observer coordinator deployed an observer to the reported port of departure of permit holder's vessel. Because gillnet trips are generally 24 hours or less (from the time of departure from port to the time of return), the observer remained assigned to the vessel for a minimum of 3 trips.

Observations were made as the net was hauled aboard. The observer remained on the deck of the vessel in a position with an unobstructed view and recorded species and numbers of individuals caught. When species identification was questionable, the crew stopped hauling so that the observer could examine the animal(s) for positive identification. Status (alive or dead when boated) of individuals was recorded, and disposition of individuals brought onboard was recorded as kept, discarded alive, or discarded dead. Fork lengths (cm FL) were estimated for the entire catch. When time permitted after the haulback was complete, observers directly measured a random group of 10 individuals from each species for fork length (FL, measured on a straight line) in cm. Sex (sharks only) was determined when possible. Biological samples (e.g. otoliths, vertebrae, reproductive organs, stomach), when taken, were removed and placed on ice after

collection. Data and samples were submitted to the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Panama City staff immediately upon completion of observed trips. The data were entered and proofed by SEFSC staff, examined by NMFS/SEFSC Sustainable Fisheries Division staff, and reviewed with observer contract staff to resolve any questions.

Results

A total of 402 sets comprising various gillnet fisheries were observed in 2011. Set locations ranged from North Carolina to the Florida Keys in the Atlantic Ocean (Figures 1-4). However, location-specific reports of trips cannot be documented herein due to vessel confidentiality laws, therefore observations will be summarized by gear type. Weights for shark and teleost catch referenced herein (Tables 7 and 8) were back-calculated using estimated length (cm FL) measurements and length-weight conversions (Wigley et al. 2003; NMFS, unpublished data).

Drift gillnet fishery

There were no vessels observed fishing with drift gillnets in 2011. In previous years, drift gillnets have been used to target large and small coastal sharks and mackerel species. Drift gillnet effort does still occur to some extent in the fishery, but has been limited by the recent changes to shark regulations.

Strike gillnet fishery

A total of 2 gillnet vessels were observed making 4 strike sets on 4 trips in 2011. These vessels targeted king mackerel exclusively. Further presentation of the data was not possible due to violation of vessel confidentiality.

Sink gillnet fishery

A total of 71 trips totaling 398 sink net sets on 23 vessels were observed in 2011. Trips were made targeting one or more of the following: shark (including spiny dogfish *Squalus acanthias*, finetooth shark *Carcharhinus isodon* and sandbar shark *Carcharhinus plumbeus*), Spanish mackerel, Atlantic croaker *Micropogonias undulatus*, and mixed teleosts (including king mackerel, southern kingfish *Menticirrhus americanus*, kingfish species, and spot *Leiostomus xanthurus*). Refinement of the data by target species was possible, except in the case of monkfish *Lophius* sp.. Gear characteristics and soak time for monkfish targeted sets was sufficiently different from the other mixed teleost sets that they were excluded.

Shark targeted sink gillnet

Thirteen observed trips were made on 5 vessels for a total of 36 sink gillnet sets targeting sharks. Vessels fished with nets ranging 91.4 – 548.6 m (300 - 1800 ft) long, net depths of 1.5 – 7.6 m (5 – 25 ft) and stretched mesh sizes 6.4 – 19.1 cm (2.5 – 7.5 in). Set duration averaged 0.07 hr (0.04 S.D.). Hauls averaged 0.56 hr (0.34 S.D.). The entire fishing process (time net was first set until time haul back was completed) averaged 7.64 hr (16.03 S.D.). Sets were made in waters averaging 14.6 m (4.3 S.D.) deep. Observed shark targeted sink gillnet fishing effort is illustrated in Figure 1.

Observed shark targeted sink gillnet catches

Catch composition by number of all shark targeted sets was 78.0 % elasmobranchs, 21.3 % teleosts, and 0.7 % invertebrates (Table 1). By number, shark catch was primarily spiny dogfish *Squalus acanthias* (89.2 %), Atlantic sharpnose shark *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae* (8.7 %) and bonnethead *Sphyrna tiburo* (0.7 %). By weight the shark catch was similar and made up mostly of spiny dogfish (97.8 %), followed by Atlantic sharpnose shark (1.5 %) (Table 5). Spot made up 35.8 % of the teleost catch by number, followed by Atlantic croaker (34.0 %), bluefish (7.2 %) and southern kingfish (6.8 %). Catches by weight of commercially important teleosts are given in Table 6.

Average size from shark targeted sets

The average (S.D.) lengths of sharks measured by target can be found in Table 7. Average (S.D.) fork lengths of sharks caught in shark targeted sets ranged from 60 cm (0) for spinner shark, to 101.6 cm (9.5) for finetooth shark. Average (S.D.) lengths of teleosts ($n \ge 5$) measured by target can be found in Table 8. Average (S.D.) fork lengths of teleosts caught in shark targeted sets ranged from 20.3 cm (1.1) for spot, to 35.8 cm (8.5) for seatrouts *Cynoscion* sp..

Spanish mackerel targeted sink gillnet

Forty-two observed trips were made on 16 vessels for a total of 270 sink gillnet sets targeting Spanish mackerel. Vessels fished with nets ranging 68.6 - 1554.5 m (225 - 5100 ft) long, net depths of 2.4 - 9.1 m (8 - 30 ft) and stretched mesh sizes 7.4 - 10.2 cm (2.9 - 4 in).

Set duration averaged 0.07 hr (0.05 S.D.). Hauls averaged 0.38 hr (0.36 S.D.). The entire fishing process (time net was first set until time haul back was completed) averaged 1.81 hr (1.19 S.D.). Sets were made in waters averaging 10.4 m (4.6 S.D.) deep. Observed Spanish mackerel targeted sink gillnet fishing effort is illustrated in Figure 2.

Observed Spanish mackerel targeted sink gillnet catches

Catch composition by number of all Spanish mackerel targeted sets was 89.8 % teleosts, 5.8 % elasmobranchs, and 4.4 % invertebrates (Table 2). By number, shark catch was primarily Atlantic sharpnose shark (63.4 %) and bonnethead (28.6 %). Larger individual scalloped hammerhead sharks *Sphyrna lewini* made up 14.0 % of the catch by weight, reducing the relative percentage of Atlantic sharpnose shark and bonnethead shark to 46.7 % and 25.3 % respectively (Table 5). Spanish mackerel made up 48.6 % of the teleost catch by number, followed by bluefish (23.4 %), Atlantic bumper *Chloroscombrus chrysurus* (10.0 %) and Atlantic butterfish *Peprilus triacanthus* (4.7 %). Catches by weight of commercially important teleosts are given in Table 6.

Average size from Spanish mackerel targeted sets

Average (S.D.) fork lengths of sharks caught in Spanish mackerel targeted sets ranged from 59.1 cm (20.5) for Atlantic sharpnose shark, to 113.0 cm (0) for scalloped hammerhead shark (Table 7). Average (S.D.) fork lengths of teleosts caught in Spanish mackerel targeted sets ranged from 16.12 cm (2.2) for harvestfish *Peprilus alepidotus*, to 113.0 cm (0) for dealfish family *Trachipteridae* (Table 8).

Protected resources interactions from Spanish mackerel targeted sets

One interaction with a protected resource was documented in 270 sets observed targeting Spanish mackerel with sink gillnets in 2011. One green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas* was caught and was released alive (0.005 % of the total catch; Table 2).

Atlantic croaker targeted sink gillnet

Ten observed trips were made on 5 vessels targeting Atlantic croaker for a total of 68 sink gillnet sets. Vessels fished with nets ranging 91.4 – 365.8 m (300 - 1200 ft) long, net depths of 1.9 – 11.6 m (6.3 – 38 ft) and stretched mesh sizes 7.6 – 9.5 cm (3 – 3.75 in). Set duration averaged 0.04 hr (0.03 S.D.). Hauls averaged 0.55 hr (0.38 S.D.). The entire fishing process (time net was first set until time haul back was completed) averaged 6.44 hr (13.15 S.D.). Sets were made in waters averaging 34.7 m (11.3 S.D.) deep. Observed croaker targeted sink gillnet fishing effort is illustrated in Figure 3.

Observed Atlantic croaker targeted sink gillnet catches

Catch composition by number of all croaker targeted sets was 96.7 % teleosts, 2.8 % elasmobranchs, and 0.5 % invertebrates (Table 3). By number, shark catch was primarily spiny dogfish (83.9 %), Atlantic sharpnose shark (11.0 %) and smooth dogfish (4.1 %). By weight the shark catch was similar and made up mostly of spiny dogfish (95.5 %) and Atlantic sharpnose shark (2.5 %) (Table 5). Atlantic croaker made up 91.4 % of the teleost catch by number, followed by Atlantic menhaden, *Brevoortia tyranus* (6.4 %) and bluefish (1.3 %). Catches by weight of commercially important teleosts are given in Table 6.

Average size from Atlantic croaker targeted sets

Average (S.D.) fork lengths of sharks caught in Atlantic croaker targeted sets ranged from 79.0 cm (2.8) for spiny dogfish, to 98.0 cm (0) for Atlantic angel shark *Squatina dumeril* (Table 7). Average (S.D.) fork lengths of teleosts caught in croaker targeted sets ranged from 17.8 cm (3.4) for Atlantic butterfish *Peprilus triacanthus*, to 83.0 cm (0) for skipjack *Euthynnus pelamis* (Table 8).

Mixed teleost targeted sink gillnet

Seven trips targeting mixed teleosts were observed on 5 vessels for a total of 21 sink gillnet sets. Vessels fished with nets ranging 73.2 – 457.2 m (240 - 1500 ft) long, net depths of 1.5 – 6.4 m (5 – 21 ft) and stretched mesh sizes 6.4 – 15.2 cm (2.5 – 6 in). Set duration averaged 0.10 hr (0.05 S.D.). Hauls averaged 0.60 hr (0.40 S.D.). The entire fishing process (time net was first set until time haul back was completed) averaged 3.17 hr (1.16 S.D.). Sets were made in waters averaging 11.2 m (8.2 S.D.) deep. Observed mixed teleost targeted sink gillnet fishing effort is illustrated in Figure 4.

Observed mixed teleost targeted sink gillnet catches

Catch composition by number of all mixed teleost targeted sets was 88.9 % teleosts, 10.0 % elasmobranchs, and 1.1 % invertebrates (Table 4). By number, shark catch was primarily Atlantic sharpnose shark (68.0 %), smooth dogfish (17.8 %) and bonnethead (6.2 %). By weight the shark catch was similar, but again few larger scalloped hammerhead sharks made up 6.0 %. The remaining weight was mainly Atlantic sharpnose shark (51.0 %) and smooth dogfish (25.4 %) (Table 5). Spot made up 44.2 % of the teleost catch by number, followed by

Atlantic croaker (17.2 %), yellowfin menhaden *Brevoortia smithi* (13.9 %) and Atlantic bumper (7.1 %). Catches by weight of commercially important teleosts are given in Table 6.

Average size from mixed teleost targeted sets

Average (S.D.) fork lengths of sharks caught in mixed teleost targeted sets ranged from 71.6 cm (7.7) for Atlantic sharpnose shark, to 104.0 cm (0) for finetooth shark (Table 7).

Average (S.D.) fork lengths of teleosts caught in mixed teleost targeted sets ranged from 31.0 cm (2.8) for southern kingfish, to 125.0 cm (9.9) for Atlantic sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrhyncus* (Table 8).

Discussion

In 2011, observer coverage confirmed the trend for declining effort in the LCS targeted gillnet fishery. Strike gillnet gear was observed exclusively in teleost-targeted sets. The absence of drift gillnet effort can be explained by random exclusion from the 2011 vessel selection of the small proportion of the fleet that still utilizes this gear. Sink gillnet fishers continued to target shark species for which landing limitations were less restrictive (SCS, smooth and spiny dogfish). The majority of the sink gillnet effort targeted teleost species. Incidental take of protected species remained a rare occurrence. However, there were observed interactions with Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) in Atlantic croaker and mixed teleost targeted sets (Tables 3 & 4). The recent listing of the Carolina and South Atlantic distinct population segments (DPSs) of Atlantic sturgeon as 'endangered' under the Endangered Species

Act (ESA) of 1973 (77 FR 5914) will necessitate further data collection to monitor the potential for incidental take in southeast gillnet fisheries.

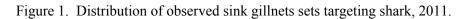
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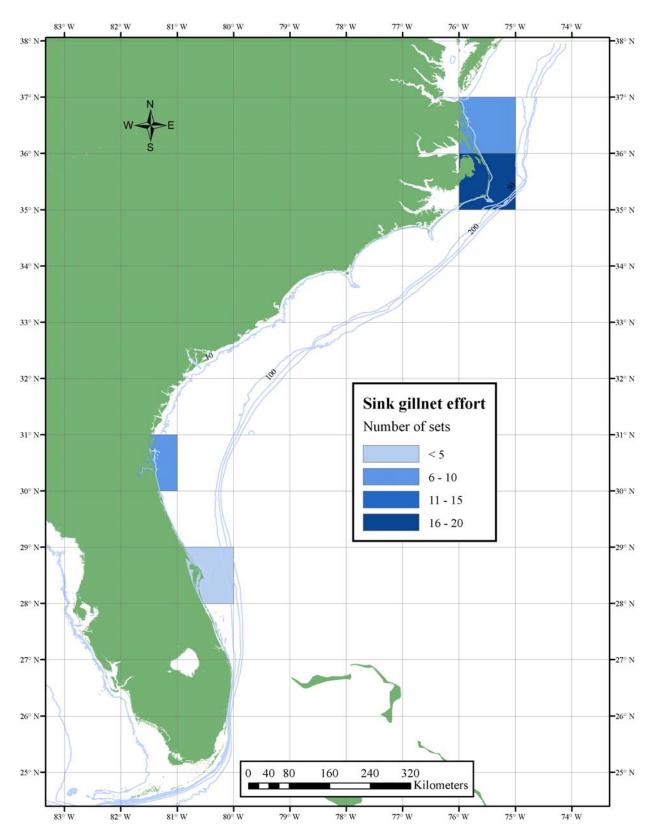
The following observers were responsible for collection of data for this report: A.

Santiago, B. Doughtie, J. Parks, B. Pernia, M. Floyd, M. Cochran, M. Enzenauer, J. Lange, and A. Nanninga.

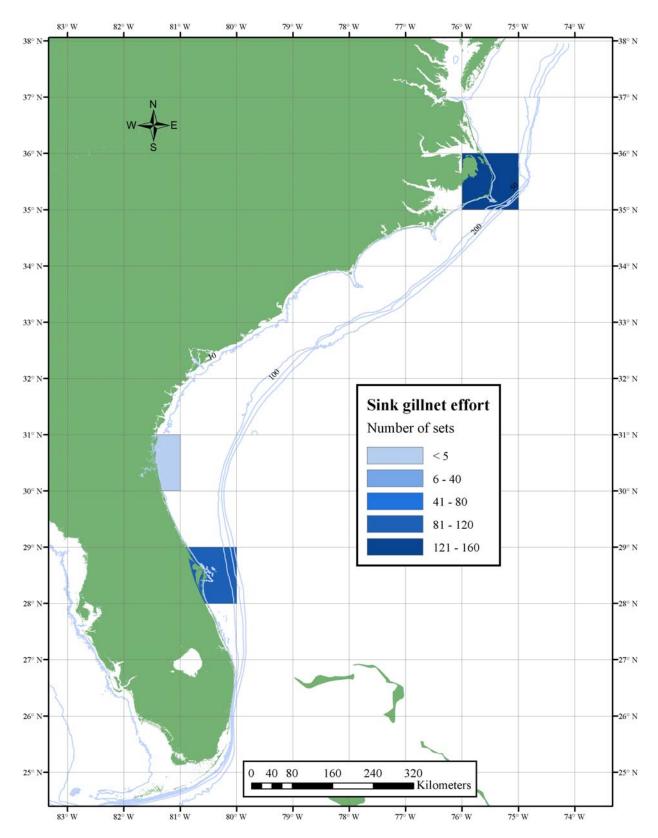
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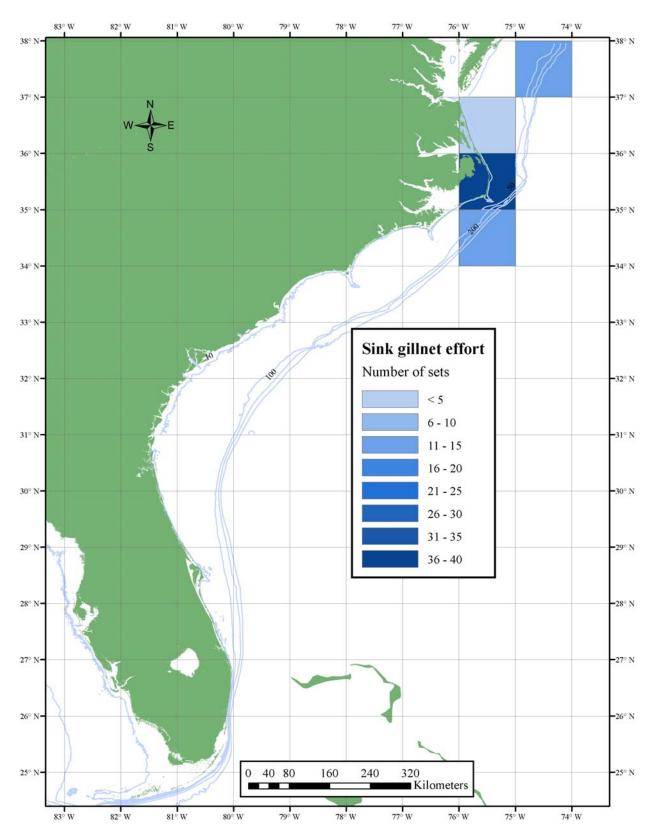


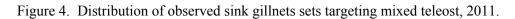












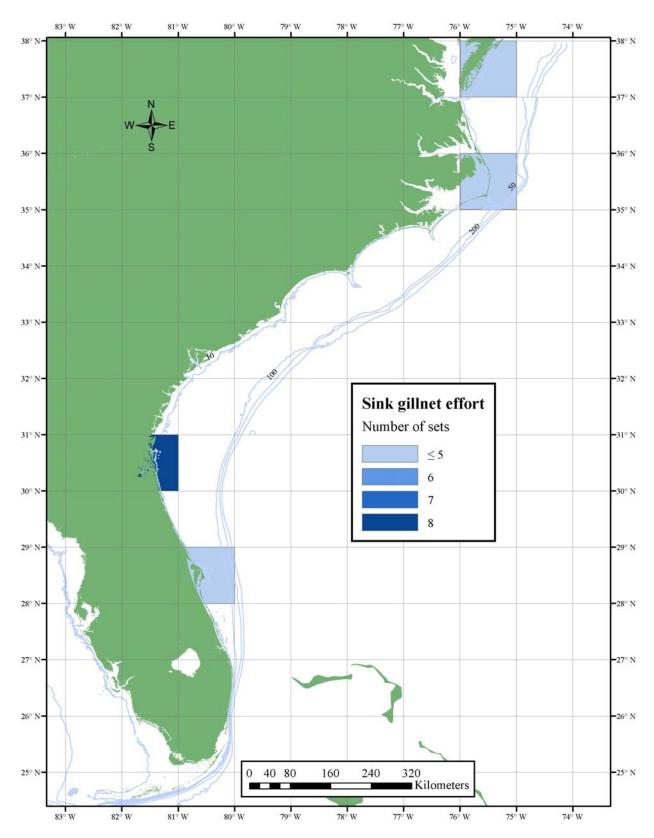


Table 1. Total sink gillnet catch from shark targeted sets by species and species disposition in order of decreasing abundance for all observed trips, 2011. Catch disposition is by percent kept (Kept %), percent discarded alive (D.A. %), and percent discarded dead (D.D. %).

		Total Number	Kept	D.A.	D.D.
Species	Common Name	Caught	(%)	(%)	(%)
Squalus acanthias	Spiny dogfish	3133	97.1	2.3	0.6
Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	344	100.0	0.0	0.0
Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	327	99.7	0.3	0.0
Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	306	97.3	2.0	0.7
Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	69	49.3	36.2	14.5
Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	65	96.9	0.0	3.1
Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	55	67.3	0.0	32.7
Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	46	58.7	17.4	23.9
Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	24	87.5	4.2	8.3
Echinodermata	Sea urchins	23	0.0	95.6	4.4
Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	14	0.0	100.0	0.0
Cynoscion sp.	Seatrouts	12	41.7	8.3	50.0
Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	11	100.0	0.0	0.0
Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	9	100.0	0.0	0.0
Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	9	100.0	0.0	0.0
Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	9	66.7	0.0	33.3
Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	7	14.3	28.6	57.1
Dasyatis sp.	Stingrays	6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	6	33.3	66.7	0.0
Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	5	80.0	20.0	0.0
Dasyatis sayi	Bluntnose stingray	4	0.0	100.0	0.0
Anthozoa	Coral	3	0.0	100.0	0.0
Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	3	0.0	66.7	33.3
Rhinoptera bonasus	Cownose ray	3	0.0	66.7	33.3
Lagodon rhomboides	Pinfish	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Limulus polyphemus	Horseshoe crab	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Myliobatis sp.	Eagle rays	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Paralichthys sp.	Flounders	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Scyphozoa	Jellyfish	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Trachinotus carolinus	Florida pompano	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Alopias sp.	Thresher sharks	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Asteroidea	Sea stars	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Calappa flammea	Flame box crab	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Caranx crysos	Bluerunner jack	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Mollusca	Molluses	1	0.0	100.0	0.0

Table 1, cont.

Species	Common Name	Total Number Caught	Kept (%)	D.A. (%)	D.D. (%)
Prionotus sp.	Searobins	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Rhomboplites aurorubens	Vermillion snapper	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Selene setapinnis	Moonfish	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Seriola fasciata	Lesser amberjack	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Sparidae	Porgy family	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Sphyraenidae	Barracuda family	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Brachyura	Crab	1	0.0	100.0	0.0

Table 2. Total sink gillnet catch from Spanish mackerel targeted sets by species and species disposition in order of decreasing abundance for all observed trips, 2011. Catch disposition is by percent kept (Kept %), percent discard alive (D.A. %), and percent discard dead (D.D. %).

		Total Number	Kept	D.A.	D.D.
Species	Common Name	Caught	(%)	(%)	(%)
Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	8892	98.7	0.0	1.3
Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	4278	97.1	0.6	2.3
Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	1834	26.6	44.3	29.1
Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	853	96.1	1.2	2.7
Scyphozoa	Jellyfish	742	0.0	96.9	3.1
Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	711	9.7	57.5	32.8
Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	320	33.1	35.0	31.9
Trichiurus lepturus	Atlantic cutlassfish	248	98.4	0.0	1.6
Auxis rochei	Bullet mackeral	238	100.0	0.0	0.0
Caranx crysos	Bluerunner jack	209	97.1	0.5	2.4
Caranx hippos	Crevalle jack	145	96.5	2.8	0.7
Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	142	67.6	11.3	21.1
Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	142	0.0	45.8	54.2
Peprilus alepidotus	Harvestfish	135	53.4	29.6	17.0
Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	132	81.8	8.3	9.9
Selene setapinnis	Moonfish	130	31.5	37.7	30.8
Opisthonema oglinum	Atlantic thread herring	119	1.7	3.4	94.9
Menticirrhus sp.	Kingfish	95	94.7	2.1	3.2
Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	89	93.2	2.3	4.5
Callinectes sapidus	Blue crab	70	0.0	84.3	15.7
Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	70	100.0	0.0	0.0
Chaetodipterus faber	Spadefish	60	5.0	35.0	60.0
Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	60	1.7	71.6	26.7
Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	50	26.0	24.0	50.0
Trachinotus carolinus	Florida pompano	49	85.8	12.2	2.0
Arius felis	Hardhead catfish	47	0.0	93.6	6.4
Elops saurus	Ladyfish	47	76.6	8.5	14.9
Cynoscion regalis	Weakfish seatrout	41	92.7	2.4	4.9
Rhinoptera bonasus	Cownose ray	27	0.0	92.6	7.4
Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	26	0.0	46.2	53.8
Brachyura	Crab	24	20.8	50.0	29.2
Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	23	39.1	52.2	8.7
Auxis thaza	Frigate mackerel	21	100.0	0.0	0.0
Carcharhinus plumbeus	Sandbar shark	19	0.0	100.0	0.0
Mugil curema	Silver mullet	17	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	16	0.0	100.0	0.0
Asteroidea	Sea stars	14	14.3	64.3	21.4
Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	14	42.9	21.4	35.7
Selene vomer	Lookdown	13	23.1	23.1	53.8

Table 2, cont.

		Total Number	Kept	D.A.	D.D.
Species	Common Name	Caught	(%)	(%)	(%)
Sparidae	Porgy family	13	100.0	0.0	0.0
Portunidae	Portunid crabs	12	0.0	100.0	0.0
Raja eglanteria	Clearnose skate	12	0.0	91.7	8.3
Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	12	16.7	58.3	25.0
Aluterus sp.	Filefishes	10	0.0	80.0	20.0
Paralichthys sp.	Flounders	10	10.0	90.0	0.0
Aluterus monoceros	Unicorn filefish	8	62.5	37.5	0.0
Cancer borealis	Jonah crab	8	0.0	100.0	0.0
Serranidae	Seabass family	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Synodontidae	Lizardfish family	8	0.0	50.0	50.0
Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Clupeidae	Herring family	7	0.0	14.3	85.7
Prionotus sp.	Searobins	7	0.0	100.0	0.0
Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	6	50.0	33.3	16.7
Dasyatis sayi	Bluntnose stingray	6	0.0	66.7	33.3
Gymnura sp.	Butterfly ray	6	0.0	100.0	0.0
Aetobatis narinari	Spotted eagle ray	5	0.0	100.0	0.0
Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	5	100.0	0.0	0.0
Limulus polyphemus	Horseshoe crab	5	0.0	80.0	20.0
Majidae	Spider crabs	5	0.0	100.0	0.0
Pogonias cromis	Black drum	4	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cancer irroratus	Atlantic rock crab	3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Cynoscion nothus	Silver seatrout	3	66.7	0.0	33.3
Cynoscion sp.	Seatrouts	3	66.7	0.0	33.3
Brama sp.	Pomfrets	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cancer sp.	Cancer crabs	2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Carangidae	Jack family	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Dasyatis americana	Southern stingray	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Menticirrhus saxatilis	Northern kingfish	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Remora remora	Remora	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Scorpaenidae	Scorpionfish family	2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Umbrina coroides	Sand drum	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Urophycis floridana	Southern hake	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Carcharhias taurus	Sand tiger shark	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Chelonia mydas	Green sea turtle	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Decapoda	Shrimp	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Diodontidae	Spiny puffer family	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Manta birostris	Manta ray	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Myliobatis freminvillei	Bullnose ray	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Ogcocephalus radiatus	Polka-dot batfish	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Penaeidae	Shrimp	1	0.0	100.0	0.0

Table 2, cont.

		Total			
		Number	Kept	D.A.	D.D.
Species	Common Name	Caught	(%)	(%)	(%)
Rhinobatos lentiginosus	Atlantic guitarfish	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Sarda sarda	Bonito	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Seriola zonata	Banded rudderfish	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Synodus foetens	Inshore lizardfish	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Trachipteridae	Dealfish family	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Tylosurus crocodilus	Houndfish	1	100.0	0.0	0.0

Table 3. Total sink gillnet catch from Atlantic croaker targeted sets by species and species disposition in order of decreasing abundance for all observed trips, 2011. Catch disposition is by percent kept (Kept %), percent discard alive (D.A. %), and percent discard dead (D.D. %).

		Total Number	Kept	D.A.	D.D.
Species	Common Name	Caught	(%)	(%)	(%)
Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	25485	99.4	0.1	0.5
Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	1779	57.1	3.5	39.4
Squalus acanthias	Spiny dogfish	680	0.0	99.7	0.3
Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	374	98.7	0.0	1.3
Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	104	98.1	0.0	1.9
Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	89	46.1	49.4	4.5
Cancer borealis	Jonah crab	85	0.0	74.1	25.9
Alosa sp.	Shads	78	100.0	0.0	0.0
Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	33	9.1	84.8	6.1
Majidae	Spider crabs	30	0.0	100.0	0.0
Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	26	100.0	0.0	0.0
Callinectes sapidus	Blue crab	16	0.0	100.0	0.0
Hippocampus erectus	Lined seahorse	6	0.0	83.3	16.7
Prionotus sp.	Searobins	6	0.0	100.0	0.0
Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Asteroidea	Sea stars	4	50.0	50.0	0.0
Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	4	100.0	0.0	0.0
Tetraodontidae	Puffer family	4	0.0	100.0	0.0
Cynoscion regalis	Weakfish seatrout	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	3	0.0	33.3	66.7
Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Carcharhinus plumbeus	Sandbar shark	2	0.0	50.0	50.0
Cynoscion sp.	Seatrouts	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Limulus polyphemus	Horseshoe crab	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Scyphozoa	Jellyfish	2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Squatina dumeril	Atlantic angel shark	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Acipenser oxyrhyncus	Atlantic sturgeon	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Cancer irroratus	Atlantic rock crab	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Centropristis striata	Black seabass	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Euthynnus pelamis	Skipjack tuna	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Lophius sp.	Monkfish anglerfish	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Menticirrhus saxatilis	Northern kingfish	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Raja eglanteria	Clearnose skate	1	0.0	100.0	0.0

Table 4. Total sink gillnet catch from mixed teleost targeted sets by species and species disposition in order of decreasing abundance for all observed trips, 2011. Catch disposition is by percent kept (Kept %), percent discard alive (D.A. %), and percent discard dead (D.D. %).

		Total Number	Kept	D.A.	D.D.
Species	Common Name	Caught	(%)	(%)	(%)
Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	1666	91.7	0.2	8.1
Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	649	97.5	0.0	2.5
Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	524	100.0	0.0	0.0
Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	287	29.6	31.7	38.7
Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	269	95.9	1.5	2.6
Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	226	98.2	0.0	1.8
Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	165	0.0	60.0	40.0
Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	135	72.6	20.0	7.4
Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	75	90.7	9.3	0.0
Callinectes sapidus	Blue crab	36	0.0	100.0	0.0
Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	33	100.0	0.0	0.0
Prionotus sp.	Searobins	30	0.0	60.0	40.0
Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	26	100.0	0.0	0.0
Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	14	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cynoscion sp.	Seatrouts	11	72.7	0.0	27.3
Lagodon rhomboides	Pinfish	10	0.0	20.0	80.0
Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	9	100.0	0.0	0.0
Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	8	100.0	0.0	0.0
Echinodermata	Sea urchins	8	0.0	100.0	0.0
Carcharhinus plumbeus	Sandbar shark	7	0.0	85.7	14.3
Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Selene setapinnis	Moonfish	7	0.0	100.0	0.0
Synodontidae	Lizardfish family	4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Centropristis striata	Black seabass	3	0.0	100.0	0.0
Peprilus alepidotus	Harvestfish	3	100.0	0.0	0.0
Squatina dumeril	Atlantic angel shark	3	0.0	100.0	0.0
Acipenser oxyrhyncus	Atlantic sturgeon	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Cancer irroratus	Atlantic rock crab	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Caranx crysos	Bluerunner jack	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Chaetodipterus faber	Spadefish	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cynoscion nothus	Silver seatrout	2	100.0	0.0	0.0
Echeneis naucrates	Sharksucker	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Elasmobranchii	Sharks	2	0.0	100.0	0.0
Asteroidea	Sea stars	1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dasyatis sayi	Bluntnose stingray	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Decapoda	Shrimp	1	0.0	100.0	0.0
Paralichthys sp.	Flounders	1	0.0	100.0	0.0

Table 4, cont.

Species	Common Name	Total Number Caught	Kept (%)	D.A. (%)	D.D. (%)
Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Serranidae	Seabass family	1	0.0	100.0	0.0

Table 5. Estimated shark catch by weight (kg), back-calculated from estimated lengths of all sharks observed caught in sink gillnet gear by target, 2011.

Target	Species	Common Name	Catch (kg)	% Total Sharks
Shark	Squalus acanthias	Spiny dogfish	56138.60	97.8
	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	860.73	1.5
	Alopias sp.	Thresher sharks	110.35	0.2
	Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	72.16	0.1
	Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	60.16	0.1
	Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	47.74	0.1
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	42.09	0.1
	Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	34.02	0.1
	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	13.08	0.0
	Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	4.00	0.0
	Total – Shark	-	57382.93	
Spanish	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	878.26	46.6
mackerel	Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	475.42	25.3
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	263.74	14.0
	Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	101.23	5.4
	Carcharhinus plumbeus	Sandbar shark	50.20	2.7
	Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	35.22	1.9
	Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	28.67	1.5
	Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	24.08	1.3
	Carcharhias taurus	Sand tiger shark	15.65	0.8
	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	9.43	0.5
	Total – Spanish mackerel	•	1881.90	
Atlantic	Squalus acanthias	Spiny dogfish	6653.92	95.5
Croaker	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	173.02	2.5
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	51.13	0.7
	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	37.31	0.5
	Carcharhinus plumbeus	Sandbar shark	26.70	0.4
	Squatina dumeril	Atlantic angel shark	18.55	0.3
	Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	10.34	0.1
	Total – Atlantic croaker	•	6970.98	

Table 5, cont.

Target	Species	Common Name	Catch (kg)	% Total Sharks
Mixed	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	399.82	51.1
Teleost	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	199.36	25.4
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	47.31	6.0
	Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	41.73	5.3
	Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	41.51	5.3
	Squatina dumeril	Atlantic angel shark	16.14	2.1
	Carcharhinus plumbeus	Sandbar shark	14.89	1.9
	Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	12.11	1.5
	Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	7.53	1.0
	Elasmobranchii	Sharks	3.14	0.4
	Total – Mixed teleost		783.53	
	Total – All targets		67019.34	

Table 6. Estimated catch by weight (kg) of commercially important teleosts, back-calculated from estimated lengths of all individuals observed caught in sink gillnet gear by target, 2011.

Target	Species	Common Name	Catch (kg)
Shark	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	44.15
	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	19.53
	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	15.31
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	15.21
	Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	9.72
	Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	9.28
	Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	2.22
	Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	2.05
	Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	1.76
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	1.44
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	1.42
	Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	0.59
	Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	0.54
Spanish	Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	8998.63
mackerel	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	4240.93
	Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	219.60
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	164.60
	Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	68.53
	Menticirrhus sp.	Kingfish	58.65
	Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	56.35
	Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	44.39
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	30.49
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	27.60
	Cynoscion regalis	Weakfish seatrout	21.07
	Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	17.50
	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	7.50
	Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	6.84
	Chaetodipterus faber	Spadefish	6.71
	Opisthonema oglinum	Atlantic thread herring	6.59
	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	6.59

Table 6, con	nt.		
Target	Species	Common Name	Catch (kg)
Atlantic	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	22111.18
croaker	Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	3436.88
	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	437.50
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	16.87
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	14.98
	Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	6.87
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	4.98
	Cynoscion regalis	Weakfish seatrout	2.56
	Lophius sp.	Monkfish anglerfish	1.51
	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	1.48
	Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	1.00
	Centropristis striata	Black seabass	0.05
Mixed	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	186.13
teleost	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	107.02
	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	94.61
	Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	31.43
	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	25.83
	Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	16.13
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	13.66
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	8.75
	Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	7.95
	Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	6.18
	Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	4.70
	Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	0.92
	Chaetodipterus faber	Spadefish	0.22
	Centropristis striata	Black seabass	0.14

Table 7. Average size (fork length, FL) and standard deviation (S.D.) of sharks measured for all observed sink gillnet trips by target, 2011.

Target	Species	Common Name	n	Average FL (cm)	S.D.
Shark	Squalus acanthias	Spiny dogfish	154	76.2	4.2
	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	61	71.6	11.4
	Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	11	97.6	6.0
	Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	10	101.6	9.5
	Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	10	66.4	17.9
	Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	8	84.0	11.7
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	4	80.8	7.7
	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	1	96.0	0.0
	Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	1	60.0	0.0
Spanish	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	91	59.1	20.5
mackerel	Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	76	60.5	20.6
	Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	4	106.3	11.5
	Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	4	90.8	2.6
	Carcharhinus brevipinna	Spinner shark	2	86.5	29.0
	Sphyrna lewini	Scalloped hammerhead shark	1	113.0	0.0
Atlantic	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	37	79.2	6.7
Croaker	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	4	88.8	36.0
	Squalus acanthias	Spiny dogfish	2	79.0	2.8
	Squatina dumeril	Atlantic angel shark	1	98.0	0.0
Mixed	Mustelus canis	Smooth dogfish	23	83.0	11.3
Teleost	Carcharhinus acronotus	Blacknose shark	5	96.4	9.5
	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	5	71.6	7.7
	Carcharhinus limbatus	Blacktip shark	3	89.0	1.7
	Squatina dumeril	Atlantic angel shark	2	83.5	7.8
	Sphyrna tiburo	Bonnethead shark	2	76.5	3.5
	Carcharhinus isodon	Finetooth shark	1	104.0	0.0

Table 8. Average size (fork length, FL) and standard deviation (S.D.) of non-sharks measured for all observed sink gillnet trips by target, 2011, where sample size \geq 5.

Target	Species	Common Name	n	Average FL (cm)	S.D.
Shark	Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	13	20.7	2.0
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	12	30.5	4.4
	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	10	30.2	2.7
	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	10	25.3	2.1
	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	10	20.3	1.1
	Larimus fasciatus	Banded drum	9	20.6	1.7
	Cynoscion sp.	Seatrouts	5	35.8	8.5
Spanish	Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	1357	43.8	5.7
mackerel	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	517	38.7	5.8
	Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	303	16.8	2.3
	Trichiurus lepturus	Atlantic cutlassfish	81	107.1	8.2
	Caranx crysos	Bluerunner jack	81	26.8	1.7
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	47	52.3	7.9
	Elops saurus	Ladyfish	32	51.4	5.9
	Trachinotus carolinus	Florida pompano	32	21.9	3.9
	Opisthonema oglinum	Atlantic thread herring	31	21.9	1.9
	Caranx hippos	Crevalle jack	29	22.4	3.7
	Brevoortia smithi	Yellowfin menhaden	26	27.2	1.5
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	25	31.7	4.8
	Peprilus alepidotus	Harvestfish	25	16.1	2.2
	Auxis thaza	Frigate mackerel	21	36.3	3.7
	Cynoscion regalis	Weakfish seatrout	18	35.9	4.4
	Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	16	18.1	1.8
	Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	12	27.4	3.3
	Rachycentron canadum	Cobia	9	51.8	10.3
	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	9	29.0	5.2
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	5	73.4	7.5
Atlantic	Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	784	29.9	4.9
Croaker	Brevoortia tyranus	Atlantic menhaden	221	31.9	5.0
	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	67	37.0	4.0
	Peprilus triacanthus	Atlantic butterfish	52	17.8	3.4
	Alosa sp.	Shads	33	39.4	1.6
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel	6	74.2	8.5
	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	6	19.3	0.8
Mixed	Leiostomus xanthurus	Spot	72	19.9	4.0
teleost	Pomatomus saltatrix	Bluefish	19	35.3	4.0
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny	15	71.4	9.1
	Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	8	31.0	2.8